

83.^c Eccleston Sq. Feb 3

Dear Sir

As I am shortly to return to Rome
one of my first ^{acts} must be to do away with
poor Keats' grave stone, so disrespectful
& unjust to his memory as this I distribute
to my feelings, - no doubt you are
aware that it was written by Charles
Brown & is one of his saddest mistakes

It occurs to me that you and one
of Keats' oldest friends may like to write
with Mr. M. Milnes & myself in this
labour of love - When this unseemly
stone was placed Keats' memory was
cherished by a very few friends & perhaps
his genius known to fewer: - but now his
fame is world-wide & his memory being
cherished

by way of feeling more this stone has
become a downright anomaly - Being
in such a beautiful & famous Roman
locality, close to the Pyramid of Cajsus
Cestus, he should have a tomb with some
characteristic decorum about it &
at least a true inscription beyond
ridicule -

I have already applied to a
Roman sculptor & find that my
views & wishes may be accomplished
in the moderate outlay of £75, but
in this I have the aid of Gibson - The
fine portrait of Keats by Groomette
to be done in white marble life size
& the tomb to imitate a little Greek
altar in the Vatican - I have
undertaken to direct the work
to please the Acadians which I

mean to grow & combine with the
sculptured acanthus & the laurel
& the ivy - Subjoined is my idea
of an inscription which I beg to submit
to you, as you so clearly pointed out
& corrected the sad errors of poor
Brown - I shall be glad to have
any remark of yours -

Kent's memoir was my first
great object in coming to England,
this tomb is my second & which
now on my return to Rome I can
so well accomplish - Mr. Milnes
began the thing by subscribing £10
I remain Dear Sir

Yours faithfully
Joshua Severn

To Charles W. Dilke Esq.

Feb. 14th 1921 - From Mr. & Mrs. Leary - Prince -

James H. H. H. H.

He was much affected at this passage.

Such a letter has come I gave to Keats supposing it to be one of yours but it proved wholly otherwise. The glance of that letter tore him to pieces. The effects we on him for many days - he did not read it - he could not but requested me to place it in his coffin together with a purse and letter unopened of his sister, since which time he has requested me not to place that letter in his coffin but only his sister's purse and letter with some hair - Thus he found many cause of his illness in the excitement and thwarting of his passions but I persuaded him to feel otherwise on this delicate point - In his most irritable state he sees a friendless world with every thing that his life presents particularly the kindness of his friends tending to his untimely death - "I have got an English nurse to come 2 hours every other day, so that I have quite recovered my health but my nurse after coming 3 times has been taken ill to day this is a little unfortunate as Keats seems to like her ***

you see I cannot do any thing until poor Keats is asleep this morning he has waked very calm - I think he needs some - I do better. He has taken half a pint of French milk, the